

Tried and True - These are for You

Friday, July 27th

9:15 - 10:15 am, Hemisfair Ballroom Section 3

Sarah Bayles - Blalack MS - Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD

Jocelyn Epley - Boles JH - Arlington ISD

Dorrie Seamans - Cockrill MS - McKinney ISD

Brooke Grall - Sloan Creek Int. - Lovejoy ISD - Accompanist

Sarah Bayles

Shoshone Love Song - TB - Emerson (PML Grade 2)

- Pros: Sensitive text for young men, opportunities for phrase shaping, beautiful and supportive piano accompaniment, accessible ranges for middle school changing voices
- Challenges: Long phrases (stagger breathing necessary), text changes in the second verse that may trip them up, tricky final chord

When I Am Silent - SA - Varner (PML Grade 2)

- Pros: 2 part great for smaller choir or choir that is less confident in 3 parts (can be very successful with a Non Varsity choir), very meaningful and relatable text, beautiful and supportive piano accompaniment, opportunities for phrase shaping and text painting
- Challenges: Very serious text material, a few tricky rhythms (triplets), a few chords with accidentals that look daunting on first read-through but are supported in piano

Shule Aroon - SSA - Schram

- Pros: Catchy and energetic, intro to Gaelic with English interspersed, enticing story (a woman pining after her love who has gone to war), great violin accompaniment part, supportive piano accompaniment
- Challenges: 12/8 time signature can be daunting on first read-through, a few note changes verse to verse that can be tricky to memorize, longer song that needs stamina, language can be difficult to learn but they will pick it up quickly

There is Sweet Music - Gilpin - SATB (PML Grade 2)

- Pros: lesser known on the PML, great opportunities for text painting and rubato, beautiful supportive piano accompaniment, interesting chord progressions, great ranges for middle school group at UIL time
- Challenges: Long phrases/stagger breathing, can become boring without phrase shaping/dynamic contrast, through composed so it may be a bit more difficult to memorize

Come Travel with Me - Farthing - TTB (PML Grade 3)

- Pros: high energy, positive message, low tenor notes are doubles in T2 or Bass, very supportive piano, opportunities for phrasing/diction, varied tempos
- Challenges: Very difficult piano, long phrases (stagger breathing necessary), low for T1 (doubled), some tricky triplet rhythms

Jocelyn Epley

Little Birch Tree - SA - Bohlan

Not on the PML but a really neat piece for contest! It is mainly unison and only goes into a canon for one verse. You can make beautiful phrases in this piece with lots of musicality. The middle section has a change in meter and it is the fun, challenging part of the song. I slow it way down and teach them to speak it in rhythm first and then we add in the notes and speed it up. The accompaniment really drives the song and there is an optional cello and wood block part to add to this unique piece. Your girls will love it!

Fillimiooriay - TTB - Berry (PML Grade 2)

The men love this Irish-American piece and it has great ranges for the junior high voice! They pick it up pretty fast and you can work dynamic levels and crisp, clean diction. There is also a slower part where you can really play with the song (suggestion: sing through the "n" on sev'n, heav'n and eleven). It also offers optional solos for your stronger singers. The guys love it!

Laudate Dominum - SSA - Rentz (PML Grade 2)

Beautiful piece and so well written! Latin text, limited ranges and the beautiful accompaniment makes this a crowd pleaser. You can work musicality, long phrases, and syllabic stress in this piece. I normally have my girls learn it on solfege to pick it up faster and they love this song. This also comes in SAB.

Psallite - Greyson - SATB (PML Grade 2)

This is great a cappella piece for your mixed group for contest. The students easily pick up the music and you can work on Latin, German, musicality and crisp diction. The ranges are well written and the dynamics change often in the song. The only challenge with this piece is to not let it run away from you and get too fast.

Lux Aeterna - Jones - SA (PML Grade 2)

Great Latin piece that you can do either with or without accompaniment! You can work phrasing in this piece with beautiful dynamics. It has some optional 3 parts on occasion but this piece can be done by a non varsity and be successful. I prefer to do it in the Key of C and to have the students learn it on solfege when teaching it. I have always done it a cappella but it is very pretty with the accompaniment as well.

Dorrie Seamans

Old Joe Clark - Rentz - SA (PML Grade 2)

- Fun!! This piece would be good for a Varsity group or it can give a little challenge to a Non Varsity group. It's two-part with three-part splits in a few spots. This arrangement definitely puts a different spin on this popular folk song which makes it more challenging, yet accessible and fun. Beware of mixed meter and countermelodies.

Rain Music - Farnell - TB

- Not on the PML, but you can't go wrong with Farnell. This piece is accessible for young male choirs and they really LOVE it! The percussion parts are fun and you could even get your guys involved in this added accompaniment. As mentioned in the choral preparation section, you might want to consider dividing the choir (with some tenors and some basses on each part) for the unison repeated echoes.

Something Told the Wild Geese - SA - Porterfield (PML Grade 1)

- This piece is a favorite for Non-Varsity Treble. The description on JWPepper is spot on... "Hauntingly beautiful melodic lines...marvelous imagery in this classic poem. This piece is excellent for teaching phrasing, blend, balance and musical sensitivity." Phrasing can be a bit of a challenge for NV, but it's totally accessible. Go through and discuss the imagery with your students and this piece becomes cross-curricular.

Battle Above the Clouds - TB

- Not on the PML, but a great choice for contest. The guys really LOVE this piece and the optional violin part really adds depth. Great text describing a Civil War battle, which gives this piece great cross-curricular value. The low F in the tenor line can be a struggle, but it always doubles with the basses. Beware that the basses might struggle with the differences in their part at ms. 9, 27 and 46.

Coffee Grows on White Oak Trees - SSA (PML Grade 2)

- Super fun piece for your Varsity Treble choir. Your students will not get bored with tempo changes, 3-part and unison sections, meter changes, a key change and a vital flute accompaniment! The meter and rhythm change on page 9 can be challenging. Also beware of the lack of measure numbers in this long piece and the rhythm difference with "Hello, Susan" on the top of page 4. Have fun with this piece...it's hard not to!

The following list is a compilation of all the pieces we submitted before narrowing it down to the selections presented in this session.